

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Yeasts of the genera *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* are detected and enumerated from any beverage or food sample by a partially selective and totally differential culture medium. The novel culture medium has a unique selective for these yeasts, given by the presence of ethanol as the sole energy source. A yeast growth inhibitor, particularly cycloheximide, and a bacterial growth inhibitor, particularly chloramphenicol, further improve the selectivity of the medium. The medium also includes a substrate for aroma production, particularly, *p*-coumaric acid, and an acid-base indicator, particularly bromocresol-green, in order to provide a diagnostic system exclusive for these yeasts. As a result, the growth of *Dekkera* and *Brettanomyces* is easily detected by three unique characteristics: the culture medium color changes according to a reproducible pattern, their colonies show a characteristic color and a characteristic phenolic-like aroma is formed.